

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TED STILWILL, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 4, 2002

TO: School Administrators

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Administrator

Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education

SUBJECT: Assessment Systems: Technical Adequacy of Assessments Training Opportunity

Background

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has established a time waiver with Iowa to allow the state to document compliance with all provisions of the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The two provisions that remain are the documentation of each district's assessment of all reading and mathematics standards and the technical adequacy of district-wide assessments used to determine the progress of students on annual goals. The Iowa Department of Education (IDE) must submit documentation to the USDE by December 2003 that all public school districts have met these provisions; therefore, each school district will have to document the alignment of assessment measures to the local content standards and will have to submit evidence that the district-wide assessment results used to measure student achievement are valid and reliable. To assist school districts in providing this documentation, the IDE has contracted with the University of Iowa to provide the technical assistance. This technical assistance will be available from January through May 2003.

Purpose

To train teams of educators in Iowa public (and private) school districts to identify, understand, and use criteria that lead to technically adequate, data-based information and decisions using their standards-referenced assessment systems.

Why?

To assist schools with the following:

- Meeting the requirement for valid and reliable district-wide assessments aligned with local content standards pursuant to 281—IAC Chapter 12.
- Meeting the requirement for the local accountability assessment system that contains assessments which must be valid and reliable, aligned with content standards, and of adequate technical quality pursuant to No Child Left Behind section 1111.
- Meeting the reporting requirement, that in December 2003, each school district will report the technical adequacy
 of the district-wide assessments it uses to report goal progress. Part of the technical adequacy training is
 instruction in how to use a protocol (template) for documenting evidence of the quality of assessment tools, the
 data obtained with them, and the interpretations reported publicly based on local data. <u>Successful completion of
 this protocol will satisfy IDE reporting requirements regarding technical adequacy and alignment.</u>

What is the delivery model?

The delivery model includes four ICN sessions, which will be used to help participants learn concepts, principles, and procedures associated with judging technical adequacy. Three web-based learning lessons will be interspersed throughout to provide an alternate mode of instruction and a form of practice with the ICN content. Two workshops will be offered regionally to promote the application of the ideas presented previously. Both workshops will require teams to apply the ideas to their local content standards and assessments.

Who is providing the training?

The technical adequacy program is being provided by staff at the College of Education at the University of Iowa. The program is based on the fundamental principle that technical adequacy is about score interpretations, not just the assessment instruments with which scores are obtained. In this sense, all proposed training is about validity: ensuring that assessment information is meaningful and that it is used in appropriate, defensible ways. The components of

technical adequacy upon which this training will focus include these aspects of validity: relevance and balance, alignment-checking, other aspects of score validity (like item/task/rubric quality, equivalence of multiple forms), fairness (including bias), assessment administration conditions, scoring criteria and procedures, reliability and decision consistency (with respect to both scores and scoring), and interpretations and conclusions in reports of results.

Who should attend?

It is the responsibility of each school system to provide the IDE with evidence regarding the technical adequacy of the district's standards-referenced assessment system. Consequently, each school district that has not completed both the alignment of local standards to local standards and determined the technical adequacy of the district-wide assessments should participate in the training program. The 2002 ESEA, now renamed No Child Left Behind, contains additional assessment requirements for grades 3, 5, 6, and 7. Thus, a school district is encouraged to attend to enhance local ability to select, develop and use appropriate assessment measures. Thus, each LEA should select a team of 2-4 educators to participate in the training program. It is recommended that each LEA select team members from the following:

- District administrator
- AEA consultant (who might be a member of more than one team)
- LEA individual most directly responsible for district assessment
- LEA educator (e.g., school improvement coordinator, classroom teacher, or special educator)

All LEA team members will need to participate in each of the training activities. For your planning purposes, a timeline for these activities has been provided in the table below. Each participating district will be reimbursed for expenses related to an LEA team's travel and compensation needed for substitute teachers.

Training Timeline

Activity	Date
1 st ICN Session	January 16, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
2 nd ICN Session	January 23, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
1 st Web Lesson	January 27-February 7 (approx. 1 hour)
1 st Workshop	February (half day—locations and dates to be determined)
3 rd ICN Session	March 6, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
2 nd Web Lesson	March 10-14 (approx. 1 hour)
2 nd Workshop	March-April (full day—locations and dates to be determined)
4 th ICN Session	May 1, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
3 rd Web Lesson	May 5-16 (approx. 1 hour)
Online Evaluation	May 19-30 (approx. 1-2 hour)

Next Steps

You may access the registration form at this web site: http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/is/qadwam/index.html or a registration form appears at the end of this document for your convenience. You must print the registration form and fax or mail by September 16, 2002, to:

Dianne Chadwick, Administrative Consultant State of Iowa - Department of Education Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, IA 50319 Fax: (515) 281-7700

Please Print Document and Fax to Address Listed at the Bottom of the Page

Technical Assistance to Determine Quality and Alignment of District-Wide Assessment Measures Registration Information for LEA Participants

AEA:
First name:
i list name.
Position:
CAV aumhari
FAX number:
First name:
Position:
FAX number:
First name:
Position:
FAX number:
First name:
Email address:
FAX number:

Please send by **September 16, 2002** to:

Dianne Chadwick, Administrative Consultant State of Iowa - Department of Education

Grimes State Office Building Des Moines, IA 50319 FAX: (515) 281-7700

^{*}Team membership includes a district administrator, one AEA consultant, and two additional LEA personnel.